

Facts and Figures – Quarter 1 2008

Our first update brings you some key statistical findings from our monitoring in the first quarter of 2008. More in-depth analysis will follow in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please visit our [Israel 60](#) section on the Just Journalism website for our latest analysis on coverage of Israel's 60th anniversary of independence.

Press

- Just Journalism monitored a total of **874 editions** of **20 publications** from January to March 2008 – 9 daily and 8 Sunday national newspapers, 1 regional and 2 weekly.
- Of these editions, **53% contained coverage** of Israel – so, on average each publication featured Israel stories every other day.
- Within those editions containing coverage, we identified **687 articles** substantially referring to Israel.
- **The Independent** had the highest frequency of Israel coverage, with **89%** of all editions containing coverage of Israel, followed by the Guardian (82%), The Times (79%) and the FT (73%).

Comment and Editorial Sections

- The comment and editorial pieces are, by definition, more expressive of a publication's opinion and so these articles were assessed according to their positive, negative or neutral attitude toward Israel.
- There were **70** comment and editorial pieces about Israel during this period.
- These were nearly **twice as negative as they were positive**, with 36% of articles taking a negative stance, compared to 19% positive.
- **The Guardian** and **The Independent** contained the highest number of negative comment, with **65%** and **47%** of comments pieces respectively negatively positioned, and only 12% and 7% respectively positive. At the other extreme, the Daily Telegraph was half positive and half neutral toward Israel in its comment.

News Sections

- In the news sections, articles were evaluated systematically and objectively using Just Journalism's methodology, based on industry-accepted journalistic principles.
- The greatest number of breaches were from **The Guardian** and **The Times**, with an average of **10% of their editions** breaching journalistic principles, equivalent to **one every two weeks**.
- Overall, there were **22 articles containing breaches of journalistic principles**, consisting of **30 breaches altogether**. This represented 3% of overall coverage or nearly **2 articles per week**.
- The most common breaches involved **lack of context**, **factual errors** and **distortion of information**, specifically around the circumstances of Israel's blockade of Gaza.

BBC Radio

- We monitored **284 BBC radio broadcasts** from 6 programmes throughout the first quarter – The Today Programme, The World at One, PM, The World Tonight, The World This Weekend and Sunday.
- **34%** contained substantial coverage of Israel. That equates to an **average of one radio broadcast a day about Israel**.
- **4%** of the coverage was deemed to have breached journalistic principles. This represents **one piece every 2.5 weeks**.
- **The World Tonight** produced the greatest number of breaches.
- The most common breaches involved **lack of context by omission of relevant information and facts**, again surrounding the circumstances of the Gaza blockade.